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RUSSO REPORT PRESENTED TO WAR CRIMES INQUIRY

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[Text] Copenhagen, 12 Oct (AFP)--Anthony Russo, who was responsible with Dr Daniel Ellsberg for releasing parts of the Pentagon Papers to the press, today revealed that prior to the 1968 My Lai massacre at least two villages were wiped out by allied ground troops but that the U.S. army did not investigate.

Mr. Russo made his report to the third session of the international committee investigating alleged U.S. war crimes in Indochina.

Mr Russo said that examples of unparalleled criminal brutality of the allied invaders was shown in Appendix A of a Rand Corporation report prepared in 1966 by Leon Goure at the request of General Westmoreland.

The report, containing interviews with prisoners taken in Phu Yen and Binh Dinh Provinces, mentions the death of more than 200 men, women and children and one prisoner said that Korean allied troops wiped out the entire hamlet of Phnec Hoa and that only five people escaped, Mr Russo said. He said there was no record of General Westmoreland's investigating Phnec Hoa and that as was the policy of the invaders, Phnec Hoa was swept under the rug.

The interviews in the Rand report also showed that the scope of the air war was great even prior to 1966, Mr. Russo said. He said prisoners answered questions on whether their home villages had been hit by artillery or air strikes and that figures projected from the answers showed that prior to 1966 literally millions of villagers bore the brunt of heavy bombing and shelling.

The large number of refugees--estimated at one million as early as the summer of 1965--was parallel proof of the genocidal proportions of the air war, Mr Russo said.

He said in the Rand report 34 [word indistinct] of the prisoners and defectors said there had been civilian casualties in their home villages prior to 1966 and 18 [word indistinct] described the casualties as-severe.

Mr. Russo said that the civilian casualty rate had doubtlessly increased greatly since 1966 but that the rates were high then and the information existed in the Rand interviews and no responsible American official could plead ignorance.

Mr. Russo said the casualties were the result of shotgun tactics used in the countryside by American invaders. He said the report also exposed the blatant hypocrisy of President Nixon's excuse for not settling the Vietnam war for fear of a bloodbath.

He said in 1954 amnesty and elections were promised but not given and President Diem's troops carried out a campaign of terror and suppression against all former resistance members that had continued to this very day under the name of the Phoenix program. In the light of the Lansdale-Diem policies and the current CIA-sponsored Phoenix program, it was the PRG fighters who should logically fear a bloodbath, not Nixon, Mr. Russo's report said.

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